

US\$N 10/500,943

### REMARKS

The present application was originally filed with 10 Claims. In the present Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has restricted the Claims into 6 Groups, as indicated below:

- I. Group I contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 27 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';
- II. Group II contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 45 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';
- III. Group III contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 170 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';
- IV. Group IV contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 181 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';
- V. Group V contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 251 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';
- VI. Group VI contains Claims 1-10, drawn in part to a subtilisin modified by an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 271 in the sequence of subtilisin BPN';

The Examiner has also made a species election requirement, as follows:

- A. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 1;
- B. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 14;
- C. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 49;

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D. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 61;

E. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 87;

F. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 100;

G. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 102;

H. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 118;

I. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 128;

J. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 204; and

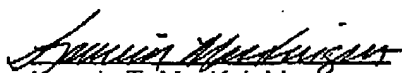
K. A subtilisin variant comprising an additional amino acid substitution at the subtilisin BPN'-correspondent position 258.

Applicant hereby elects the Claims in Group III (Claims 1-10, directed to substitution at position 170) without traverse. Applicant further hereby elects the species set forth in Group E (position 87). Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of the remaining species, upon determination that the elected species Claims are allowable. Applicant also reserves the right to prosecute the originally filed, broader, and/or similar Claims in one or more additional applications. Applicant also reserves the right to prosecute the originally filed, broader, and/or similar Claims in one or more additional applications.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 23 December 2005

  
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